

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 MCT-01 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00

IO-13 CU-04 /091 W

-----122351 281812Z /43

R 281530Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3501

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 10777

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, GR

SUBJECT: STUDENT MARCH ON EMBASSY FAILS TO MATERIALIZE

REF: ATHENS 10744

1. AS REPORTED REFTEL, THE ATTEMPT BY THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION (EFEE) TO MARCH ON THE EMBASSY ENDED IN A RETREAT BY THE STUDENTS BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO PREVENT THE MARCH FROM TAKING PLACE. THE RALLY ITSELF AT THE POLYTECHNION SUNDAY AFTERNOON BROKE UP PEACEFULLY, AFTER EFEE ANNOUNCED THE MARCH WOULD NOT BE ATTEMPTED, ALTHOUGH SMALLISH GROUPS OF EXTREMISTS DID SUCCEED IN PROVOKING SOME VIOLENT CLASHES WITH THE POLICE AFTER MOST OTHERS HAD GONE HOME.

2. COMMENT: THE GOG'S HANDLING OF THE MARCH ATTEMPT SUGGESTS THAT, IN THE WAKE OF THE ELECTION, IT INTENDS TO BE FIRM RATHER THAN FLEXIBLE IN DEALING WITH ITS OPPONENTS, INCLUDING ANDREAS PAPANDREOU. FROM THE BEGINNING THE GOG STATED IT WOULD NOT ALLOW THE MARCH TO THE EMBASSY AND, IN THE END, ITS WILL PREVAILED.

3. PAPANDREOU WAS CAUGHT -- AS HE WILL BE CAUGHT IN THE FUTURE -- BETWEEN HIS MORE RADICAL PASOK SUPPORTERS AND HIS APPARENT DESIRE TO BUILD A WIDER CONSTITUENCY. FACED WITH THIS DILEMMA,
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PAPANDREOU DID THE POLITIC THING -- HE PERSONALLY TOOK NO PUBLIC STAND ON THE ISSUE. HE THUS LOST LITTLE WITH THE MANY WHO MIGHT HAVE BEEN ANGERED HAD HE PERSONALLY SUPPORTED THE EFEE IN ITS THREAT TO DEFY THE GOVERNMENT BAN. AT THE SAME TIME, HE APPEASED HIS MORE MILITANT SUPPORTERS BY ALLOWING HIS PARTY TO ISSUE A STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF EFEE'S BID TO MARCH. MOREOVER, WITH PAPANDREOU'S UNDOUBTED CONCURRENCE, EFEE PRESIDENT STEFANOS

TSOUMAKAS, A PASOK STATE DEPUTY-ELECT, REPORTEDLY PUSHED HARD FOR PROCEEDING WITH THE MARCH AND THEN CALLED IT OFF IN THE FACE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FIRM STAND. AT THE SAME TIME, TSOUMAKAS DELIVERED AN EXTREMELY ANTI-AMERICAN, ANTI-GOVERNMENT, ANTI-NATO SPEECH AT THE RALLY WHICH WAS HELD BEFORE THE WOULD-BE MARCHERS BROKE UP.
MILLS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, EMBASSIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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